

**Decision Record
for
Bum Creek/South Sisters Creek and Big Creek Phase II Instream Structure Placements
DNA No. 13 to EA OR125-98-09**

Background:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coos Bay District previously prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA OR125-98-09) and Finding of No Significant Impact to evaluate the effects of placing large wood, root wads, or boulders instream Bum Creek, South Sisters Creek and Big Creek in the Umpqua Field Office. The objective was to place instream structures to begin restoring natural structural complexity to degraded habitats. The EA analyzed a Proposed Action along with a No Action Alternative. A thirty-day public comment period ended on June 23, 1997. No comments were received from the general public, adjacent landowners, or interested citizens.

Survey and Manage:

The EA cited was created before Survey and Manage mollusk management was initiated. Currently we are operating under the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (USDA; USDI, 2000). For the Coos Bay District BLM there are no mollusks requiring pre-disturbance surveys. Protection is required for known sites of *Megomphix hemphilli*, as of September 30, 1999. There are no known *Megomphix hemphilli* sites, as of September 30, 1999 in the area of the project sites.

Portions of this area have been previously surveyed for Survey and Manage botanical species and Special Status plants. However this project encompasses more than the surveyed area and so will require surveys in June or July for the following mentioned species.

There is a probability of finding some Survey and Manage lichens (*Ramalina thrausta*, *Platismatia lacunosa* and *Cetraria cetroides*) along with a Survey and Manage bryophyte (*Diplophyllum plicatum*). Although the bryophyte is not a Survey and Manage predisturbance species, it is on the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP 2001) list two. Predisturbance surveys are required. These species may or may not impact the project, depending on the substrate. The open edges along the project contains marginal potential habitat for California globe mallow (*Iliamna latibracteata*). The mallow occurs in two general areas on the Coos Bay District, near Powers and near Remote. It is a BLM assessment species. Occurrences must be recorded during field surveys and impacts and recommendations for the species will occur on a case-by-case basis. Where possible, steps to protect the species should be taken. The ONHP rates the mallow as a list two species, meaning that the species is threatened with extirpation or presumed to be extirpated from the state of Oregon. There is also marginal potential habitat for the vascular Survey and Manage plant clustered lady's slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), which is also a BLM sensitive species, an ONHP list one species, and a species of concern, meaning that it is threatened with extinction or presumed to be extinct throughout its range. If found,

these plants would probably impact the project, perhaps requiring redesignation of an access road.

The project would be a no effect for noise disturbance for the marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl, as there are no known sites or suitable habitat within 0.25 miles of the project. No other Special Status species are known to be in the project area. There would be no seasonal or daily timing restrictions for the projects. There are no known Survey and Manage wildlife sites adjacent to the project. The project does not trigger red tree vole protocol surveys. The scattered conifer in the project area are upslope of the edge of the stream and the removal of alder would not be expected to affect the conifer canopy structure.

Decision:

My decision is to adopt the Proposed Action of EA OR 125-98-09 for the instream structure placement projects described in DNA No. 12 for the Umpqua Field Office and recommendations in the specialist reports.

The design features are accepted as described therein, including:

- Limit vehicle entry to the driest time of the year, adhering to the soil moisture limits to avoid compaction. The moisture limit for the Meda Loam is 30 percent soil moisture. The moisture limit for the Preacher-Bohanon-Xanadu Complex is 15 percent. The moisture limit for the Digger-Umpcoos-Rock Complex is 25 percent soil moisture content.
- Exposed soils should be mulched and seeded with native vegetation stock or an approved BLM seed mixture.
- Limit entry impacts to one road of the parallel road system located in T. 21S., R. 08W., Section 5.
- Utilize Best Management Practices, construction recommendations, and stipulations for stream enhancement, as referenced in the Environmental Assessment OR125-98-09.
- Access roads will be reclaimed at the end of the project; if possible, the roads would be located to avoid the need to cut existing conifer trees and snags. If any trees or snags should need to be cut, then they will be left on site.
- A project design table is included in the Biological Assessment and the design criteria prescribed for each action must be met for the action to be considered programmatically covered. Project Design Criteria for aquatic and riparian projects including the placement of large woody material and boulders, when combined with Best Management Practices identified in the Coos Bay District RMP, will ensure that the proposed action falls within the range of effects considered under programmatic consultation.
- If potential cultural resources are encountered during these projects, all work in the vicinity will stop and the District Archeologist must be notified at once.

- If any Survey and Manage or Special Status plant species are found in the vicinity of the Big Creek Instream Structure Placement Project, the appropriate management guidelines will be adopted and any access road that may be in conflict with the site will be relocated.
- Vehicles and machinery will be washed prior to entering BLM lands and are required to stay within road right-of-ways, unless specifically designated to operate within units. The short access spur roads that are to be developed need to be through weed free areas or treated for weeds to help prevent the machinery from contacting parent plants and transporting the weed seeds to other areas.

Rationale for Decision:

The Proposed Action would begin the process of restoring natural structural complexity to degraded habitats in Bum Creek, South Sisters Creek and Big Creek. The decision is in compliance with the *Coos Bay District Final Proposed Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* with its *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines* (Interagency 1994). Allowing increased access to additional stream habitat will benefit associated fisheries and other aquatic species and help to ensure their persistence within the landscape.

Monitoring:

Compliance monitoring of the Proposed Action should be performed by the BLM Project Inspector (PI) for the project contract. It is the PI's responsibility to ensure compliance with contractual stipulations (including design features).

Instream structure placement would be monitored annually by area fish biologists for at least three years after design objectives are initially achieved or modifications are installed.

Decision Recommended by:

NRSA: Kathy Wall Date: 07/11/02

NRSA: Ralph L. Thomas Date: 07/11/02

NRSA: Steven D. Fowler Date: 07/15/02

Decision Approved by:

Umpqua Field Office Manager
Elaine Raper: /s/ Kathy Wall, Acting Date: 07/15/02